

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of handling ATM traffic comprising one or more Virtual Path Connections (VPCs) being streams of packets of AAL5 type composed of ATM cells, the method comprising handling said traffic at a network node at VP-layer being the layer of VPCs, wherein said node is initially unaware about type of VC services inside a Virtual Path Connection VPC, the method including:

providing a database,

monitoring each of said cells incoming the node and determining at least VC-layer and VP-layer parameters of a cell being monitored,

processing information on said determined parameters,

registering the processed information concerning each of said cells in the database,

by using the registered information, forming statistical data with respect to at least combinations of the VC-layer and VP-layer parameters of the packets being handled at the node, so that most frequent of said combinations are registered in the data base, so as to make thereby making the network node, handling the ATM traffic at VP-layer, aware about nature and behavior of various AAL5 streams in a particular VP connection, and

analyzing the statistical data,

performing an AAL5 packet discard policy at the VP layer by making decisions on discard of the cells being monitored, said decisions depending on results of analysis of the statistical data, thereby taking into account frequency of appearance, in the database, of a combination of VC-layer and VP-layer parameters of a particular cell being monitored.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein each of said packets belongs to a particular VCC (Virtual Channel Connection) and a particular VPC (Virtual Path Connection), and wherein each said packet comprises a number of ATM cells, and for each said packet, each of the cells have a same value of VC-index (VCI) ~~and the~~ and a same value of VP-index (VPI), the method comprises:

determining said VC-layer and VP-layer parameters by determining VPI and VCI values of the cell; and

registering the processed information per each of the monitored cells in the database, to allow judging about VCCs in a particular VP connection and thereby enabling awareness of the network node about VCCs at the VP layer and frequency of their appearance in the ATM traffic being handled.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of handling ATM traffic at a network node, according to Claim 1, wherein the node has multiple ATM Interfaces, the method comprises providing one or more said databases for respectively serving a number of the multiple ATM Interfaces.

4. (Cancelled)

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 3, comprising an additional step of indicating a particular ATM Interface, for each ATM cell received there-through, by an additional parameter being a unique ATM Interface index (IfIndex), the method also comprising monitoring each of incoming cells from the point of that additional parameter, processing the additional parameter together with said parameters and registering result of the processing in a common database for serving at least a number of the multiple ATM Interfaces.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 2, further comprising monitoring each of the incoming ATM cells in respect of “end of packet” indication and, based on the presence or absence of said indication, complementing the database with a status of the VCC under monitoring to which the cell being registered belongs.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of forming the statistical data is performed by building a table arranged for N entries assigned to N different VCCs, wherein each entry registers a number of fields assigned for at least the following purposes: indicating a VPI value, indicating a VCI value, a counter of “own cells”, a counter of “other cells”, AAL5 packet status.

8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of processing the VC-layer and VP-layer parameters is performed by applying an arbitrary function $f(VPI, VCI) = n$ ($n=1..N$) to values of VPI and VCI of each of the incoming ATM cells, wherein the value n is a natural number between 1 and N and

represents the entry number in the database to which the incoming ATM cell is registered.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 7, comprising registering, per each entry, an additional field for indicating an index of the ATM Interface (lflIndex), wherein the step of processing the lflIndex, VCI and VPI parameters is performed by applying an arbitrary function $f(lflIndex, VPI, VCI) = n$ ($n=1..N$) to values of lflIndex, VPI and VCI of each of the incoming ATM cells, wherein the value n is a natural number between 1 and N and represents the entry number in the statistical database to which the incoming ATM cell is mapped.

11. **(Cancelled)**

12. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 7, wherein the fields “own cells” and “different cells” serve for distinguishing different VCCs which can be mapped to the same entry.

13. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 12, comprising replacing a particular entry by reassigning it to another VCC if in said entry a reading of the “own cells” counter is significantly smaller than a reading of the “other cells” counter.

14. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 6, further comprising indicating the status in the statistical database as follows:

Begin Of Packet – where the monitored VCC starts transferring a new packet, in case the previous ATM cell belonging to the VCC under monitoring carried an “End Of Packet” indication;

In Packet – where the monitored VCC is in the middle of the AAL5 packet transmission.

15. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, further comprising indicating additional status options for informing whether the current VCC is already under a packet discard process; said status options being either PD (partial discard) or FD (full discard).

16. (Previously Presented) A method of AAL5 packets discard at a VP-layer, with respect to said packets handled at a network node according to the method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of making said decisions comprises the following operations:

detecting a new congestion event in the network while monitoring a cell belonging to a particular Virtual Channel Connection (VCC),

based on the results of analysis of the statistical data, deciding whether said particular VCC is suitable for discarding,

if yes, discarding cells of the VCC according to a selected discard policy,

if not, repeating said operations with respect to a new incoming cell.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the step of analyzing the statistical data in the database comprises checking whether the particular VCC is registered as one of entries of the database:

if the VCC is not registered in the database, making a decision not to discard the cell, and

if the VCC is registered in the database, making a decision to discard the cell.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, further comprising indicating, in the database, status of the VCC being monitored so as to distinguish a “begin packet” status and an “in packet” status,

the method also comprises checking the status and depending on the status “in packet” or “begin of packet”, applying the following discard decisions:

when the status is “begin of packet”, performing a Full Discard policy;

when the status is “in packet”, performing a Partial Discard policy.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 16, wherein the step of making decisions further includes a check whether cells of the particular VCC are already under discard, and if yes, repeating the method with respect to the VCC of the next incoming cell in case the congestion event persists.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, further comprising a step of forecasting an expected congestion event, and if said expected event is forecast, a discard decision is made for the incoming VCC which is considered, and performed on the basis of status “begin of packet” and by applying a Full Discard policy.

22. (Currently Amended) A software product comprising computer implementable instructions and/or data for carrying out the methods according to Claim 1, stored on an appropriate non-transitory computer readable medium.

23. (Cancelled)

24. **(Previously Presented)** A network node adapted to and capable of performing the method according to Claim 1.

25. **(Original)** The network node according to Claim 24, being a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM).

26. **(Currently Amended)** A method of handling, at a Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM), AAL5 traffic streams at VP layer comprising multiplexed Virtual Path connections VPCs, wherein each VPC comprises interleaved cells of VC connections unknown to the DSLAM at the VP layer,

the method comprising:

continuous monitoring of the interleaved cells incoming the DSLAM,

determining the belonging of each of the monitored cells to a particular VCC and VPC, and status of the cell in a packet

registering data on the determined belonging and status in a statistic database of the DSLAM,

performing discard of the cells by applying an AAL5 packet discard policy at the VP layer while utilizing the data registered in the statistic database, so as to discard most frequent VCCs.